

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Apparatus comprising a controllable flow rate, filtered, vent for an ostomy pouch, the vent having a plurality of outlets and a device for controlling the rate of flow of gas through the vent, the device comprising adhesive sticker means which can be positioned and re-positioned to selectively expose or cover one or more of the plurality of outlets, and thereby regulate variably the rate of flow of gas according to the outlets exposed.

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2. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the flow rate is controllable according to the number of outlets exposed.

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3. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the sticker means comprises a sticker dimensioned so that it is of sufficient size to be able to cover all of the outlets.

4. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein one or more of the outlets comprises a hole in a layer to which the sticker means is adherable.

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5. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein one or more of the outlets comprises a clearance between one or more outlets, or weld segments.

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6. Apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a flow restricting layer provided upstream of the outlets.

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7. Apparatus comprising a vent for an ostomy pouch, the vent comprising aperture means, a flow restricting layer upstream of the aperture means, and adhesive sticker means which can be positioned to selectively block one or more areas of the aperture means.

8. Apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the aperture means comprises a plurality of individual vent apertures.
9. Apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the sticker means comprises a plurality of stickers or sticker segments.  
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10. Apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the sticker means is positioned or positionable to selectively block all of the area of the aperture means.
- 10 11. Apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the flow restricting layer comprises microporous material.  
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12. Apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the pouch comprises a first wall provided with the vent and with a comfort layer.  
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13. An ostomy pouch comprising a first wall, provided with a comfort layer and with a flatus vent, the pouch further comprising adhesive sticker means attached, or attachable, to the vent to facilitate the control of the flow of flatus through the vent.
- 20 14. A pouch according to claim 13, wherein the outlet of the vent is defined by at least one segment of plastics material positioned outside the comfort layer, and to which the adhesive sticker means can adhere.  
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15. A pouch according to claim 14, wherein said plastics material has a generally smooth surface to which said sticker means can adhere.
16. A pouch according to claim 14, wherein said plastics material is substantially impermeable material.

17. A pouch according to claim 14, wherein said plastics material overlies a portion of the comfort layer and is secured to the underlying first wall of the pouch through the comfort layer.

5 18. A pouch according to claim 14, wherein said plastics material forms an outer cover over a filter, and is secured to the pouch wall around the filter.

19. A pouch according to claim 18, wherein the line of attachment is continuous.

10 20. A pouch according to claim 18, wherein the line of attachment is discontinuous to provide a plurality of outlets through which filtered gas may vent.

21. A pouch according to claim 13, wherein the comfort layer is provided outside the majority of at least an upper portion of the pouch.

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22. An ostomy pouch comprising a first wall of substantially liquid impermeable and gas impermeable plastics material, an aperture provided in the first wall to allow venting of flatus therethrough, a comfort layer provided outside the first wall, and a filter cover layer outside the comfort layer and secured to the first wall through the comfort layer, the cover layer and the portion of the first wall underlying the cover layer defining a housing in which is received a filter for processing flatus vented through the aperture.

23. An ostomy pouch according to claim 22, wherein the cover layer has a plurality of openings therein to provide a plurality of vent outlets.

24. An ostomy pouch according to claim 1, further comprising an adhesive wafer for securing the pouch to a person's skin, wherein the wafer, or a cover layer provided on the wafer, is provided with guidelines for enabling a person to cut the wafer to a desired aperture size, the guidelines including at least one generally circular guideline and at least one generally non-circular guideline.

25. An ostomy pouch according to claim 7, further comprising an adhesive wafer for securing the pouch to a person's skin, wherein the wafer, or a cover layer provided on the wafer, is provided with guidelines for enabling a person to cut the wafer to a desired aperture size, the guidelines including at least one generally circular guideline and at least one generally non-circular guideline.

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26. An ostomy pouch according to claim 13, further comprising an adhesive wafer for securing the pouch to a person's skin, wherein the wafer, or a cover layer provided on the wafer, is provided with guidelines for enabling a person to cut the wafer to a desired aperture size, the guidelines including at least one generally circular guideline and at least one generally non-circular guideline.

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27. An ostomy pouch according to claim 22, further comprising an adhesive wafer for securing the pouch to a person's skin, wherein the wafer, or a cover layer provided on the wafer, is provided with guidelines for enabling a person to cut the wafer to a desired aperture size, the guidelines including at least one generally circular guideline and at least one generally non-circular guideline.

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28. An adhesive wafer for directly or indirectly securing an ostomy pouch to a person's skin, wherein the wafer, or a cover layer provided on the wafer, is provided with guidelines for enabling a person to cut the wafer to a desired aperture size, the guidelines including at least one generally circular guideline, and at least one generally non-circular guideline.

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29. A wafer according to claim 28, wherein the non-circular guideline or guidelines has or have a race-track shape.

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30. A wafer according to claim 28, wherein a plurality of the circular guidelines and plurality of the non-circular guidelines are provided.

31. An ostomy pouch comprising a pouch envelope and an adhesive wafer for directly or indirectly securing the pouch envelope to a person's skin, wherein the wafer, or a cover layer provided on the wafer, is provided with guidelines for enabling a person to cut the wafer to a desired aperture size, the guidelines including at least one generally circular guideline, and at least one generally non-circular guideline, and the adhesive wafer being secured to the envelope around a closed loop line of attachment, the line of attachment having a shape which is non-circular and non-race-track.

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32. A pouch according to claim 31, wherein the line of attachment is defined by a combination of a circular shape and a race-track shape, the combined shape corresponding to a silhouette of one superimposed on the other.

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33. A body-side device for attachment to an ostomy pouch, the body-side device comprising an adhesive wafer for directly or indirectly securing the ostomy pouch to a person's skin, and a coupling portion for releasable fastening to the pouch, wherein the wafer, or a cover layer provided on the wafer, is provided with guidelines for enabling a person to cut the wafer to a desired aperture size, the guidelines including at least one generally circular guideline, and at least one generally non-circular guideline, and wherein the wafer is secured to the coupling portion around a closed loop line of attachment, the line of attachment having a shape which is non-circular and non-race-track.

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34. A device according to claim 33, wherein the line of attachment is defined by a combination of a circular shape and a race-track shape, the combined shape corresponding to a silhouette of one superimposed on the other.

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35. Use of adhesive sticker means to control variably the vent flow rate through a filtered vent for an ostomy pouch, the vent having a plurality of outlets, and the sticker means being positionable to selectively expose or cover one or more of the plurality of outlets, to thereby regulate the gas flow rate according to the outlets exposed.

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36. Use according to claim 35, wherein the flow rate is determined by the number of outlets exposed.

37. A method of controlling variably the flow rate through a filtered vent of an ostomy pouch, the method comprising positioning sticker means to selectively expose or block one or more of a plurality of outlets of the vent, to regulate the gas flow rate according to the outlets exposed.